year period, to meet the modernisation requirements of textile mills. A part of the fund was earmarked to provide special loans to week but viable units as a major part (upto 80%) of their promoter's contribution to enable them to avail of the modernisation assistance. The special loans carry interest at the rate of 6% per annum and are repayable over a period of 12 years, including a moratorium of 6 years.

Multinational Investment guarantee Agency

1437. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government propose to join the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), the World Bank affiliate; and

(b) if so, the advantages likely to accrue from joing the MIGA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) The question of Government of India joining the MIGA is under consideration

(b) MIGA has been established to offer investment quarantees to Investors against non commercial risks in member countries and to give promotional and advisory services - with a view to promoting the flow of investment .resources for productive purposes to developing countries.

Irregularities at Sahar International Airport

1438. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Sahar Gangport" appearing in the Bombay weekly 'BLTZ' dated October 5, 1991;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard; and

(c) the steps being taken by the government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) and (c). As far as Customs are concerned, no involvement of Customs officials in any such activity as alleged in the news item been found. Besides surprise checks by senior Customs Officers, Central Intelligence Unit of the Custom House also makes discreet visits to Airport to check any malpractices. Entry of persons not connected with airport operations is controlled.

As far as allegations against police and other agencies are concerned, the facts are being ascertained from the Ministry of Home affairs and other concerned organisations and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Steps to check smuggling

1439. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:-

(a) whether any fresh steps have been taken to check smuggling and apprehend smugglers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b). The Customs authorities remain vigilant against smuggling activities. The field formations have been equipped with vessels, vehicles, fire-arms and telecommunication network.

Sophisticated equipment such as X-ray baggage machines, night-vision binoculars and metal detectors are being increasingly utilised. Sub-Collectorates under the charge of Additional collectors have been recently created with headquarters at Jodhpur and Amritsar for combating smuggling across the vulnerable Indo-Pakistan border. Close co-ordination is being maintained by all the agencies concerned such as Customs, Coast Guard, BSF, Police in the detection and prevention of smuggling.

Claims of Indian Nationals for Property left in the Erstwhile East Pakistan

1440. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of claims registered with the government for property left by Indian nationals in the erstwhile east Pakistan;

(b) the total value of the admitted claims;

(c) when the compensation is likely to be paid;

(d) the number of cases of enemy property pending with the Custodian of Enemy Property as on April 1, 1991, State-wise;

(e) whether the Government have prescribed a cut-off date for taking custody of properties alleged to be enemy property?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SNRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) In all 57,493 ex-gratia claim applications were registered with the custodian of Enemy Property. The majority of the claim cases registered appears to pertain to erstwhile East Pakistan.

(b) Total value of admitted and paid Ex-gratia claim cases upto September, 1991, is Rs. 68.41 crores. The value in respect of the pending claims, which are under verification, is difficult to assess.

(c) Custodian of Enemy Property has been asked to expeditiously finalise the pending ex-gratia claims by the end of the first quarter of next year.

(d) There are 538 immovable property cases consisting of land and buildings recorded in the office of the Custodian of Enemy Property. State-wise break-up is attached statement.

(e) No, Sir.

STATEMENT

Immovable Enemy Properties in various states in India

Name of state	*No. of properties Income receiving cases*
Andhra Pradesh	
Assam	2
Andaman	1
Bihar	3
Calcutta	93
Delhi	9
Gujarat	6
Goa	3
Karnataka	1
Madhya Pradesh	1
Rajasthan	-
Tamil Nadu	6